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Date: Monday, April 24, 2006To: Examiner: Luke D. RATCLIFFE Group Art Unit: 3662Firm/Company: United States Patent and Trademark OfficeFax Number: 571-273-8300From: Robert J. Schneider, Reg. No. 27,383 Matter Number: 1715465Serial No. U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/756,855 Extension: 3919

Comments:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION ATTACHED.

Robert J. Schneider

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U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/756,855
Attorney Docket No. 1715465

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of:

Examiner: RATCLIFFE, Luke D.

APR 24 2006

Fumio OHTOMO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3662

Serial No.: 10/756,855

Confirmation No.: 3405

Filing Date: January 14, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Greetings:

The following is filed in timely response to the final Office Action mailed on February 3, 2006, wherein the Examiner:

1. Rejected Claim 1 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,692,023, in view of *Brown*, U.S. Patent No. 3,967,111.

2. Rejected Claim 2 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Barna et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,452,666.

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3. Rejected Claim 3 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Akasu*, U.S. Patent No. 5,179,286.

4. Rejected Claims 4 and 5 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Haruyama*, Japanese Publication No. 10-285227.

5. Rejected Claim 7 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Ishikawa et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,891,624.

6. Rejected Claim 8 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Ohtomo et al.*, in view of *Brown* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Ichikawa et al.*, Japanese Publication No. 6-51062.

7. Found Claim 6 allowable if rewritten to be independent of the rejected base claims.

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.